

From: Joseph Hubbard <Hubbard.Joseph@epamail.epa.gov> on behalf of R6 Press <R6Press@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 03, 2014 8:26 AM
Subject: Daily News Digest, Friday, January 03, 2014
Attachments: Daily News Digest 120414.pdf

(See attached file: Daily News Digest 120414.pdf)

1 - Jet fuel cleanup lags goal, ABQ Journal, 12/28/13

<http://www.abqjournal.com/327615/news/jet-fuel-cleanup-lags-goal.html>

A large vacuum system completed earlier this year to suck contamination from the ground beneath a multimillion gallon jet fuel spill at the Kirtland Air Force Base fuel loading area continues to fall short of design goals, according to documents exchanged earlier this month between the Air Force and the New Mexico Environment Department.

2- Fiery faucet leaves Environmental Protection Agency, state at odds, Daily Advertiser, 1/2/14

http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20140102/NEWS01/301020031/?nclick_check=1

It stuns people — understandably so — when water catches fire as it flows into the bathtub, a drinking glass or into a garden as it pours from a hose. The trouble is, sometimes the Environmental Protection Agency and state investigators disagree about what caused the unexpected fire.

3 - Top 10 Environmental Stories, Austin Chronicle, 1/3/14

<http://www.austinchronicle.com/news/2014-01-03/top-10-environmental-stories/>

Rather than wait for the Legislature to follow through on threats to reverse parts of Austin's development laws, the City Council opted to preemptively repeal parts of the city's development code to allow some expired "zombie" construction projects to start anew under older, less stringent environmental regs.

4 – Communities Ask EPA To Ensure Protections Under Groundwater Strategy, Inside EPA, 1/2/14

<http://insideepa.com/201401022457039/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/communities-ask-epa-to-ensure-protections-under-groundwater-strategy/menu-id-95.html>

A multitude of community and environmental groups is expressing general support for EPA's draft framework for assessing groundwater cleanup remedies, while seeking assurances the policy will be uniformly implemented, require maximum protection of public health and mandate community input in cases where cleanup goals are weakened due to technical impracticalities or other remedy failures.

5 – Utility shuts 3 of 5 units at major Southwest power plant, Greenwire, 1/2/14

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/01/02/stories/1059992340>

Arizona Public Service Co. this week shut down three of five generating units at New Mexico's Four Corners Power Plant, one of the largest and most controversial coal plants in the country. APS told U.S. EPA Region 9 Administrator Jared Blumenfeld in a letter that it would also install pollution control technologies targeting nitrogen oxides at units 4 and 5 by July 31, 2018.

6 – Groups offer mixed reviews of scaled-back enforcement plan, Greenwire, 1/2/14

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/01/02/stories/1059992344>

U.S. EPA's plan to scale back enforcement -- and focus on "serious polluters" -- is getting sharp criticism from one watchdog group while earning guarded support from a conservative organization. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and the Pacific Legal Foundation are both skeptical about the agency's five-year strategic plan, which proposes fewer inspections and investigations in favor of better electronic reporting.

7 - Many concerns, little response at Azle town-hall meeting on earthquakes, Dallas Morning News, 1/2/14

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/metro/20140102-many-concerns-little-response-at-azle-town-hall-meeting-on-earthquakes.ece>

Hundreds of upset residents packed the auditorium at Azle High School on Thursday evening to voice concerns to a member of the Texas Railroad Commission about earthquakes that have rattled the area in recent months. Since Nov. 1, more than 30 earthquakes have hit near Azle, about 20 miles northwest of Fort Worth. They have measured up to 3.7 magnitude, and no injuries or major damage have been reported.

8 - Tighter well-integrity rules take effect in Texas, Energywire, 1/2/14

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/01/02/stories/1059992317>

Oil and gas producers in Texas face tighter regulations on well integrity and testing as part of the most significant updating of drilling requirements in a decade. As of Jan. 1, new drilling, casing and cementing requirements under Statewide Rule 13 (SWR 13) entered into force in the state, part of an overhaul in rulemaking undertaken last year by the Texas Railroad Commission. The commission regulates the oil and gas industry in this state, but no longer oversees railroads.

9 - Texas regulators have few answers on spate of tremors, Energywire, 1/3/14

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/01/03/stories/1059992366>

State officials left few people satisfied after a sometimes-raucous meeting to discuss a string of earthquakes that have hit near this small town in the past three months. About 850 people turned out last night for a town hall-style meeting with regulators from the Texas Railroad Commission, flanked by a state legislator and staffers.

10 – Okla. tightens fracking chemical disclosure rules, Energy Wire, 1/3/14

<http://www.eenews.net/energywire/2014/01/03/stories/1059992349>

Oil and gas drillers in Oklahoma must report chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing under a newly expanded disclosure rule. Before Jan. 1, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission required drillers only of horizontal wells to share the composition of fracking fluids used to flush oil and gas out of shale formations in the state.

11 - Texas oil production highest in three decades, Fuel Fix, 1/2/14

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/01/02/texas-oil-production-highest-in-three-decades/>

Texas crude oil production has reached its highest level since the U.S. Energy Information Administration started tracking it in the early 1980s. In July, Texas produced around 2.602 million barrels daily.

12 - Azle Residents Demand Answers About Quakes, CBS DFW, 1/2/14

<http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2014/01/02/azle-residents-demand-answers-about-earthquakes/>

More than 800 Parker County residents pressed Commissioner David Porter of the Texas Railroad Commission Thursday for answers about a series of minor earthquakes there. The commission regulates oil and gas operations. Angry and frustrated, many residents are fed up after experiencing 30 earthquakes in one month.